



Recommendation for Action

File #: 19-1834, **Agenda Item #:** 18.

8/22/2019

Posting Language

Authorize negotiation and execution of amendments to agreements with Mexic-Arte Museum, a Texas non-profit corporation, for the funding of maintenance costs and renovations to the cultural facility used by the public and located at 419 Congress Avenue, Austin, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$20,000,000.

Lead Department

Economic Development DEpartment

Fiscal Note

This item has no fiscal impact.

Prior Council Action:

In November of 2006, voters approved \$5 million for Mexic-Arte Museum capital improvements as part of Proposition 4; a proposition providing funding to specific cultural arts facilities in Austin.

April 22, 2010: Council approved a resolution authorizing negotiation and execution of agreements with Mexic-Arte, a Texas non-profit corporation, for improvements to the cultural facility (Resolution No. 20100422-016) using the general obligation bond funds from the 2006 bond election.

January 30, 2014: Council approved a resolution reflecting City of Austin support for Mexic-Arte's application for Federal New Market Tax Credits to be used in conjunction with City bond funds to design and construct a new facility (Resolution No. 20140130-047).

June 22, 2017: Council approved a resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute amendments to the City's Improvement of Cultural Facilities for Public Use Funded With Bond Funds Agreement with Mexic-Arte, extending the deadline for the expenditure of bond funds, and requesting the City Manager to take certain action to demonstrate that support (Resolution No. 20170622-041).

In August of 2018, council approved resolutions establishing a contract with the voters relating to use of bond funds for various city purposes, one of which includes Mexic-Arte Museum. In November of 2018, voters approved \$128 million in general obligation bond funds for libraries, museums, and cultural arts facilities. These funds include \$15 million for Mexic-Arte Museum

For More Information:

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Additional Backup Information:

The mission of Mexic-Arte is to enrich the community through education programs, exhibitions, and collection, preservation, and interpretation of Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art and culture for visitors of all ages.

Since its inception in 1984, Mexic-Arte has been a pioneer institution as one of the few Mexican and Mexican American art museums in the United States. Mexic-Arte contributes to cultural enrichment and works to

improve quality of life through innovative exhibitions and educational programming. In 2003, the 78th Legislature of Texas designated Mexic-Arte as “The Official Mexican and Mexican American Fine Art Museum of Texas.” Hundreds of diverse families, artists, scholars and corporations, businesses, and organizations enjoy Mexic-Arte as part of the cultural fabric of Austin. Each year, Mexic-Arte presents audiences with exceptional exhibitions, public lectures, art events, and educational programs such as Viva la Vida/Dia de los Muertos, Young Latino Artists, and other outstanding exhibits that have become part of Austin’s downtown traditions. In addition, Mexic-Arte is recognized for providing underserved youth with innovative art education programs that assist in building individual and collective pride and self-esteem. Mexic-Arte also provides unique opportunities for college students to work and learn as docents, interns, volunteers, and mentors. In the fall of 2016, then First Lady Michelle Obama presented Mexic-Arte with the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities Award for its educational arts programming.

Mexic-Arte’s permanent collection consists of historic and contemporary Mexican, Latino, and Latin American art and material culture. In 2000, Mexic-Arte was designated as the official archive of prints from the Austin Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization that produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by established and emerging artists and contains over 350 works. Mexic-Arte also houses over 5,000 books in its library of references on Mexican/Latino art and culture.

The Amended Bond Funding Agreement will:

- Provide funding for the maintenance and renovation of the existing structure at 419 Congress Avenue.
- Require that Mexic-Arte solicit, manage, and pay for the capital improvements in accordance with state and city purchasing and M/WBE requirements.
- Require the project to follow City of Austin requirements regarding Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), green building, and sustainable design.
- Require that the planning, design, and construction for the capital improvements be managed by the City of Austin, Public Works Department.
- Require milestone deliverables at critical times during planning, design, and construction phases to hold Mexic-Arte and the Project Manager accountable for quality, budget, and schedule.
- Require participation in the City’s Art in Public Places Program (AIPP), Great Streets Development program, and the 5th Street Mexican American Heritage Corridor improvements.
- Provide adequate management of how City of Austin bond funds are spent.

- The Amended Services Agreement will:
 - Amend and restate the current services agreement between the City of Austin and Mexic-Arte (current agreement was created in 2001 after the City of Austin provided \$740,000 for the building purchase).
 - Require that Mexic-Arte use the facility for the operation of an art museum, open to the public, related appreciation of the arts, and arts related educational purposes for the term of the agreement.
 - Require that Mexic-Arte provide specific services during the term of the agreement, including a Totally Cool Totally Art exhibition, reduced fee or no fee access to youth, seniors, veterans, and visiting dignitaries as well as provide one free day per month for the general public, and outreach programs to schools. Mexic-Arte will also partner with non-profits to provide a venue.
 - Protect the City’s interests should Mexic-Arte decide to sell the building or cease to exist.

- The Amended Master Lease and Sub Lease Agreements will:
 - Allow bond funds to be spent on property that is not owned by, but that is operated in cooperation with, the City of Austin.

This project is located within zip code 78701. (District 9).